



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 123	Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 and Assembly Amendment 1
<i>Memo published: April 22, 2005</i>	<i>Contact: Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorney (266-0922)</i>

Currently, a school district may enter into a five-year, renewable student achievement guarantee (SAGE) contract with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to reduce class size to 15 pupils in grades kindergarten to three in exchange for receiving state aid equal to \$2,000 for each low-income pupil enrolled in grades eligible for SAGE funding.

Original Bill

Assembly Bill 123 would have permitted a school district to choose not to comply with the requirement to reduce class size in grades two or three and to forgo the aid that it would have received. The amount of foregone aid would have been lapsed to the general fund and appropriated to supplement the payment of special education aid.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 makes technical changes to 2005 Assembly Bill 123 to clarify that a school district may choose not to reduce class size in grades two or three or both, and if it so chooses, it will still receive aid under the SAGE program for those grades in which it chooses to reduce class size. As in the original legislation, the amount of foregone aid is lapsed to the general fund and appropriated to supplement the payment of special education aid.

Assembly Amendment 1

Assembly Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 1 provides that the option to choose not to reduce class size in grades two or three, or both, is **only** available in those school districts in which no more than 50% of the pupils are eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch under federal law.

Legislative History

Assembly Bill 123 was introduced on February 22, 2005 by Representative Towns and others, cosponsored by Senator Olsen and referred to the Assembly Education Committee. Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 123 was introduced by Representative Towns on April 15, 2005. The Education Committee in executive session on April 19, 2005 voted to introduce Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0. The committee voted to adopt Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 4. The committee then voted to adopt Assembly Substitute Amendment 1, as amended, and to recommend passage of the bill as amended on identical votes of Ayes, 7; Noes, 4.

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